

Message Text

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TAGS: EGEN, TGEN, OECD
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL
POLICY MEETING (CSTP) MAY 31-JUNE 1

1. SUMMARY: THE CSTP'S TWENTIETH SESSION MAY 31-JUNE 1 COMMENDED THE SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSALS FOR THE 1979 WORK PROGRAM, INCLUDING HIGH-PRIORITY PROJECTS ON TECHNICAL CHANGE AND EMPLOYMENT; CONSULTATIONS ON THE PREPARATION OF A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY; AND TRANSBORDER DATA BARRIERS AND THE PROTECTION OF PRIVACY. MANY OF THE AREAS OF CONCENTRATION TIE IN WELL WITH ECONOMIC POLICY ISSUES NOW UNDER DISCUSSION IN THE OECD. THE SECRETARIAT (DIRECTOR BECKLER) OUTLINED PREPARATIONS FOR THE OECD MINISTERIAL, NOTING THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF R&D AND TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION IN THE POSITIVE ADJUSTMENT PROCESS. CSTP WORK ON THE EFFECTS OF GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS ON INNOVATION WILL ALSO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE MINISTERIAL. BECKLER CONCLUDED THAT THE SHIFT UNDERWAY IN THE OECD TOWARDS AN INTEGRATED MICRO AND MACRO APPROACH HAS MADE THE

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WORK OF THE CSTP EVEN MORE RELEVANT. THE CSTP HELD A SPECIAL DISCUSSION OF THE IMPACT OF MULTINATIONALS ON NATIONAL S AND T CAPACITY, INCLUDING THREE SPECIAL SECTORAL STUDIES, AND HEARD A LENGTHY REPORT ON THE APRIL WORKSHOP ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE UN CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (UNCSTD). THE SECRETARIAT NOTED THAT IT IS STILL LACKING

NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO WORK ON THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE APPROPRIATE WORKING GROUP REPORTED THAT THE SEPTEMBER SPECIAL SESSION ON TRANSBORDER DATA FLOWS WILL INCLUDE POLICY DISCUSSION OF NETWORKS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS. INITIAL CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED WORK ON GOVERNMENT POLICIES INFLUENCING THE INNOVATIVE CAPACITY OF SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED FIRMS REVEALED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN THIS TOPIC. CONSENSUS WAS REACHED AND USDEL AGREED THAT THE COUNCIL SHOULD BE ASKED TO APPROVE FUNDS FOR ONE CONSULTANT NEXT YEAR TO ASSIST IN PREPARATIONS FOR A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. END SUMMARY

2. BECKLER OUTLINED GENERAL OECD SENTIMENT TO AVOID MEASURES WHICH WOULD UNDULY PROLONG THE LIFE OF UNECONOMIC INDUSTRIES, AND INSTEAD TO ENCOURAGE INDUSTRIAL ADAPTATION AND PROMOTE LABOR MOBILITY. THE ROLE OF R&D AND INNOVATION IN THE POSITIVE ADJUSTMENT PROCESS SHOULD BE AN IMPORTANT PART OF NATIONAL POLICY, HE SAID. STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS ARE RECEIVING INCREASING EMPHASIS, AND THE CSTP'S WORK IS VERY RELEVANT TO OTHER OECD CONCERNS, INCLUDING PROJECTS ON GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS INTO PROBLEMS OF SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED FIRMS. BECKLER ALSO REPORTED THAT IMPORTANT POLICY ISSUES ON UNCLASSIFIED

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TRANSBORDER DATA FLOWS WILL BE HIGHLIGHTED FOR THE MINISTERIAL, AND NOTED THAT THE COUNCIL HAS ASKED FOR A REPORT FROM THE NEW AD-HOC GROUP BY MID-1979.

3. THE CSTP DISCUSSED THE REPORT OF THE AD-HOC POLICY GROUP ON MULTILATERAL ENTERPRISES AND IMPACT OF NATIONAL S AND T CAPACITY IN THE COMPUTER AND DATA PROCESSING INDUSTRY, ONE OF THREE SUCH SECTORAL STUDIES. THERE WAS SOME CONCERN ABOUT THE UTILITY OF DISCUSSING THE REPORT BEFORE THE AD-HOC GROUP ITSELF HAD CONSIDERED IT IN DETAIL, AND SOME SENTIMENT WAS EXPRESSED THAT THE PAPER LACKED SUFFICIENT S AND T POLICY ANALYSIS, THAT IT HAD BECOME A SECTORAL STUDY TOO LIMITED IN SCOPE. IT WAS AGREED TO USOECD

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DISCUSS THE REPORT AGAIN AFTER THE AD-HOC GROUP CON-
SIDERS IT IN DETAIL.

4. A U.S. EXPERT ON LOAN TO THE SECRETARIAT
(JULIAN ENGEL) GAVE A DETAILED REPORT ON THE APRIL
WORKSHOP ON PREPARATIONS FOR UNCSTD. SOME MEMBERS ASKED
FOR A WRITTEN COPY OF ENGEL'S NOTES, OR A SECRETARIAT
REPORT ON THE WORKSHOP, PRIOR TO THE BUCHAREST
PREPARATORY MEETING. THE SECRETARIAT WILL ATTEMPT
TO PROVIDE AT LEAST A RESTRICTED REPORT BY THAT TIME.
THE COMMITTEE AGREED-FOLLOWING A BUREAU SUGGESTION--
TO ADD ONE DAY TO EACH OF THE NEXT THREE CSTP MEET-
INGS TO DISCUSS UNCSTD, WITH PARTICIPATION BY
NATIONAL EXPERTS. SEVERAL MEMBERS ASKED FOR MORE
POLICY COORDINATION AMONG MEMBERS PRIOR TO UNCSTD,
ALTHOUGH THE U.S. POINTED OUT THAT THE WORD CON-
SULTATION, FOR DIPLOMATIC REASONS, WAS BEST AVOIDED.

5. THE COMMITTEE AGREED ON A SPECIAL FORUM TOPIC
FOR THE OCTOBER 1978 MEETING, "PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT
IN GOVERNMENT S AND T POLICY DECISION MAKING".
EXPERTS WILL BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE. AT THE
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SUGGESTION OF BELGIUM, THE MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE
WILL ALSO BE ON THE AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION.

6. IN A PROGRESS REPORT, THE SECRETARIAT NOTED

THAT IT IS STILL AWAITING MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS ON TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND THE SWEDISH CHAIRMAN OF THE ICCP (MARTIN-LOF) SAID THAT THE SEPTEMBER 13-15 SPECIAL SESSION ON TRANS-BORDER DATA FLOWS WILL INCLUDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY DISCUSSIONS, SO DELEGATIONS SHOULD INCLUDE SOMEONE RESPONSIBLE FOR NATIONAL POLICY IN THIS AREA.

7. INITIAL DISCUSSION OF A PROPOSED STUDY ON GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND FACTORS INFLUENCING THE INNOVATIVE CAPACITY OF SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED FIRMS LED TO THE CONCLUSION THAT ALTHOUGH MEMBERS ARE VERY INTERESTED IN THE SUBJECT, CONSIDERABLE NATIONAL INPUT WILL BE NECESSARY AND THAT THE TOPIC MUST BE BETTER DEFINED BEFORE GOVERNMENT AND SECRETARIAT RESOURCES ARE TAXED TOO HEAVILY. IT WAS AGREED TO FORM AN AD-HOC GOVERNMENT GROUP TO WORK WITH THE SECRETARIAT ON DEVELOPING AN APPROACH TO THE STUDY; THE GFOUP WILL BE CHAIRED BY THE DUTCH CSTP DELEGATE, VAN TRIER.

8. ALTHOUGH MEMBERS HAD RESERVATIONS ON SPECIFIC POINTS, THE COMMITTEE EXPRESSED GENERAL APPROVAL OF THE SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSALS IN SPT(78)13 AND RELATED ANNEXES I AND II ON THE 1979 WORK PROGRAM. THESE PROPOSALS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AT THE 19TH SESSION, AND MEMBERS HAD SUBSEQUENTLY INDICATED THEIR PRIORITIES IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARIAT. SWITZERLAND, SWEDEN, AUSTRIA AND OTHER MEMBERS EX-
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PRESSED SOME CONCERN THAT THE CSTP IS INCREASINGLY MOVING AWAY FROM SCIENCE AND INTO THE FIELD OF USOECD

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TECHNOLOGICAL AND INDUSTRIAL POLICY. IT WAS POINTED OUT BY OTHERS THAT A DELICATE BALANCE HAD ALWAYS BEEN, AND ALWAYS WILL BE, NECESSARY. AREAS FOR EMPHASIS IN 1979 WILL INCLUDE TECHNICAL CHANGE AND EMPLOYMENT; THE EFFECTS OF GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS ON TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION; CONSULTATIONS ON THE PREPARATION OF A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY; THE FUNCTIONS OF UNIVERSITY RESEARCH; TRANSBORDER DATA BARRIERS AND THE PROTECTION OF PRIVACY; AND CONSULTATIONS ON S AND T COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT. IN ORDER TO PREPARE FOR A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, ADDITIONAL RESOURCES WILL BE REQUIRED. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE COUNCIL WOULD NEED TO AUTHORIZE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR ONE CONSULTANT FOR WORK TO CONTINUE IN 1979. USDEL SUPPORTED THIS PROPOSAL.

9. THE COMPOSITION AND ROLE OF THE BUREAU WAS LEFT MUCH AS BEFORE, FLEXIBLE AND SMALL. THE CSTP HEARD AN ADMONITION FROM OECD COUNSEL THAT THE BUREAU'S COMPOSITION SHOULD NOT BE INSTITUTIONALIZED, AND THE ONLY RESULT OF THE BRIEF DISCUSSION WAS AGREEMENT TO NOMINATE MEMBERS IN THE FUTURE AT LEAST ONE MONTH IN ADVANCE.
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10. THE NEXT CSP MEETING WILL BE OCTOBER 10-12 (THE FIRST DAY FOR SPECIAL FORUM DISCUSSION), FOLLOWED BY UNCSTD TALKS ON OCTOBER 13. FEBRUARY 27 AND 28 HAVE TENTATIVELY BEEN SET ASIDE FOR THE FIRST MEETING IN 1979, FOLLOWED MARCH 1 BY UNCSTD DISCUSSIONS.
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